9. Replace coal linkages with fuel supply agreements. As a step towards abolishing coal linkages completely, these linkages could be made tradable in the first instance.

10. Promote in *situ* coal gasification and tapping of coal bed methane.

11. Rationalise rail freight rates for coal transport.

12. Extend infrastructure staus to the coal industry. Lower duties on capital goods imported for coalmines.

13. Institute an independent regulatory mechanism for the coal sector.

14. Review the royalty on coal and consider switching to an *advalorem* basis.

BPL people in Goa

3300. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people who are below poverty line in the State of Goa;

(b) the criteria/formula adopted to arrive at the figure;

(c) whether the criteria/formula so far adopted are focused not to be foolproof; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to evolve a new formula?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The last available data from such survey is from NSS 55th Round, which was conducted in 1999-2000. The [ercentage and number of persons living below the poverty line using the data from that survey on household consumption expenditure, in the Stated Goa is given below:

Number and Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line during 1999-2000

	Rural		Urban		Combined	
States/U.Ts	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	%of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	%of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	%of Persons
Goa	0.11	1.35	0.59	7.52	0.70	4.40

Note: Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Gos.

(b) The criteria/formula adopted to arrive at estimation of poverty are per capita consumption norms which have been fixed at Rs. 49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs. 56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The national poverty line at 1999-2000 prices is Rs. 327.56 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs. 454.11 per capita per month in urban areas. The state-specific poverty lines are derived from the national level poverty lines, using state-specific price indices and inter-state price differentials, according to the Expert Group Methodology.

The prescribed per capita consumption expenditure limits for determination of people living below poverty line are regularly updated using state-specific cost of living indices, that is, Consumer Price Indices for Agricultural Labourers (CPIAL) for rural areas and Consumer Price Indices for Industrial Workers (CPIiW) for urban areas. The figures on incidence of poverty, that is, percentage of population living below poverty line, at national and state level arrived at by the Planning Commission are based on the large Sample Survey on Household Consumer Expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years, and, then using the Census data, number of persons living below the poverty line is estimated.

(c) and (d) The criteria/formula, which are taken into consideration in arriving at the figure, are based on the methodology recommended by the Expert Group on 'Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor" (Lakdawala Committee). The Expert Group, which was constituted in September, 1989 submitted its Report to the Planning Commission in July, 1993. A full Planning Commission meeting chaired by the Prime Minister in March, 1997 accepted the recommendations of the Expert Group with minor modifications. Since then the estimates of poveity at national and state level are being made using the Expert Group methodology. The methodology used in India for estimation of poverty is widely acknowledged to be one of the most sophisticated. There is no proposal to evolve a new formula for this purpose.